

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00
/072 W

-----260210Z 100935 /20

R 251115Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6894
AUSMISSION NATO 4920
INFO USNMR SHAPE
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS ANKARA 2192

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, TU
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON NATO AEW SYSTEM AND SPECIAL MINISTERIAL

REF: ANKARA 2086, DTG 220647Z MAR 77 (NOTAL)

1. RESPECTED TURKISH FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT MEHMET ALI BIRAND, REPORTING FROM BRUSSELS, FILED LENGTHY REPORT ON AWACS AND SPECIAL MINISTERIAL WHICH APPEARED ON INSIDE PAGES OF MARCH 25 EDITION OF LIBERAL DAILY "MILLIYET". ARTICLE CONTAINS FACTUAL RUNDOWN ON AWACS SYSTEM, BUT NOTES THAT IT HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF "GREAT ARMS BARGAINING" BETWEEN US AND FRG WHICH ARE COMPETING TO SELL COMPONENTS FOR THE SYSTEM. ALSO INVOLVED IN US-FRG COMPETITION OVER AWACS IS GERMAN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE USG TO ADOPT LEOPARD TANK AS NATO STANDARD.

2. BIRAND STATES THAT, ACCORDING TO SHAPE PLANS, AWACS FORWARD OPERATING BASES (FOB) ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN TURKEY, ITALY, NORWAY, ICELAND AND IN A CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRY. HOWEVER, GREECE'S PARTICIPATION IN AWACS IS CONDITIONAL ON FOB BEING LOCATED THERE, BUT SHAPE MAINTAINS UNCLASSIFIED

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FOB WOULD MORE APPROPRIATELY BE LOCATED IN TURKEY. ACCORDING TO BIRAND, AWACS WOULD GIVE TURKEY THE POSSIBILITY OF KEEPING "CONSTANT WATCH" OVER ITS FRONTIERS AND WOULD "AT VERY SMALL EXPENSE" CLOSE PRESENT GAP IN GOT'S MEDITERRANEAN COAST SURVEILLANCE. UNNAMED MILITARY EXPERTS CITED BY BIRAND ALLEGE THAT AWACS COULD BE USED BY TURKEY "TO KEEP WATCH OVER THE AMERICAN SIXTH FLEET."

3. BIRAND ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT "BARGAINING" OVER AWACS
WILL CULMINATE IN SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING MARCH 25 WHICH
IT IS ANTICIPATED WILL MAKE FINAL DECISION IN FAVOR OF US
AEW SYSTEM OVER BRITISH "NIMROD".
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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